

Examination of Verb Word Orders in Main Clauses in the Old English Translation of *Orosius*

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〔抄録〕

古英語版『オロシウス』における主節の動詞語順の考察

古英語は他のゲルマン諸語と同様に基本的にV2言語である。古英語の主節の典型的な語順はV2語順に従っている一方で、動詞文末語順などの例外的語順が、特に初期の古英語散文に少なからずみられる。どの程度古英語散文の動詞語順がラテン語に影響されたかという問題には、議論の余地がある。一つの仮説は、9世紀にアルフレッド王のサークルによってラテン文献の古英語への翻訳事業が行われたために、そのような語順はラテン語の影響から採り入れられたというものである。他の一つは、初期古英語、特にウェセックス方言は、内部的にそのような語順を発達させたというものである。当研究は、古英語版『オロシウス』の一部をラテン語原文と比較することにより、初期古英語散文における動詞語順へのラテン語の影響について検証する。

0 Introduction

The claim that Latin influenced the syntax of early English has been made in the case of the development of English prose without doubt from the viewpoint of English philology. I quote Godden (1992)'s claim as a representative of such a hypothesis, as follows:

Whereas Anglo-Saxon poetry and the specialised language associated with

it have their origins deep in the pre-literate past, sustained discourse in prose began essentially in the late ninth century with the reign of Alfred. From the period before then there are some legal records mainly preserved in later manuscripts ... In the late ninth century, however, a well-evidenced and continuous tradition begins with the works usually associated with King Alfred: the four works by Alfred himself (the *Pastoral Care*, the translation of Boethius' *Consolation of Philosophy*, the *Soliloquies* and the prose part of the *Paris Psalter*), the anonymous translations of Orosius' *History of the World* and Bede's *Ecclesiastical History*, Waerferth's translation of Gregory the Great's *Dialogues* and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.

(Godden 1992: 513)

However, few syntactic studies have examined the extent of Latin's influence on Old English (OE). Vezzosi (2012) describes the current thinking on the relationship between Latin and OE syntax:

The influence of Latin on English syntax has constantly been neglected, even though there is no doubt that Old English prose ultimately derived from Latin originals and despite it being implicitly taken for granted that syntactic complexity in Early Modern English was a Latinate feature. With the exception of the recapitulatory work by Sørensen (1957), the extent of Latin influence on the area of syntax still awaits more detailed investigation.

(Vezzosi 2012: 1716)

We can agree that this question is still awaiting detailed investigation. Traugott (1992) describes how difficult this question is to answer, and expresses her attitude towards it as follows:

[I]n the case of Old English (OE), much of the prose is dependent on Latin (this is particularly true of the interlinear glosses). Where OE is similar to Latin, we do not always know whether this is a result of the Latin or of the OE; however, when the two are distinctly different, we may assume that we have fairly clear evidence of OE rather than of Latin structure.

We cannot help admitting how difficult it is to answer this question because most translations from Latin to OE are abridged rather than literal translations. We also encounter difficulties using some biblical translations in the examination of this question, even though they may not be abridged, because they may violate OE syntactic rules to exceedingly estimate the original Latin biblical literature.

This paper approaches this difficult question by comparing corresponding sections of the original Latin version of *Orosius* to its OE translation, which was translated by an anonymous author in King Alfred's circle in the late ninth century. I illustrate that we can rarely find corresponding word orders between the two versions, even though we might assume that the OE word orders in main clauses was influenced by the typical Latin word order.

1 King Alfred's Attitude towards Old English Translations from Latin

We must first examine the principle of Alfredian translations before we proceed to analyse the word orders in the OE translation of *Orosius*. Godden (1992) describes King Alfred's attitude towards translations from Latin to OE as follows:

Although most works in OE prose were to one degree or another translations from Latin, there is surprisingly little contemporary suggestion of any difficulty in rendering Latin thought in the vernacular. King Alfred discusses the principles and history of translation in his preface to the *Pastoral Care*, translating, he says, *hwilum word be worde, hwilum andgit of andgiete* (CP 7; 'sometimes word for word, sometimes sense for sense'). There is perhaps a hint of linguistic barriers in the immediately following remark that he translated Gregory's Latin *swæ ic hie andgitfullicost areccean meahte* ('as meaningfully as I could render it'), but he does not suggest that the English language was in any way inadequate to express biblical or patristic thought, or that the nature of either the language or his readership

required any kind of simplification.

(Godden 1992: 514–5)

According to Godden's claim, King Alfred did not adopt literal translations, which may have violated OE grammar in his circle's OE translations from Latin originals. Thus, we should avoid any hasty judgement of the Latin influences on OE grammar in Alfredian translations. There is another possibility, which the unusual sentences in OE attest to in such literature.

2 The Development of Syntactic Structure in Indo-European Languages

2.1 Verb-Second Word Order

We begin with an analysis of verb-second (V2) word order in OE because it is the most typical word order in main clauses. The following examples are quoted from Roberts:

- (1) a. Se Hæland wearæð þa gelomlice ætiwed his leornung-cnihitum.
the Lord was then frequently shown his disciples.
'The Lord then frequently appeared to his disciples'.
(*ÆCHom* I, 15.220.21; Fischer et al. 2000: 106; Roberts 2007: 58)
- b. On twam þingum hæfde God þæs mannes sawles gegodod.
in two things had God this man's soul endowed
'With two things had God this man's soul endowed'.
(*ÆCHom* I, 15.20.1; Fischer et al. 2000: 107; Roberts 2007: 58)
- c. Pa astah se Hælend up on ane dune.
then rose the Lord up on a mountain
'Then rose the Lord up on a mountain'.
(*ÆCHom* I, 15.20.1; Fischer et al. 2000: 107; Roberts 2007: 58)

Notice that the subject precedes the finite auxiliary in (3a), which precedes an adverb; a PP precedes the auxiliary in (3b), which precedes the subject; and the adverb *þa* ('then') precedes the finite verb in (3c), which precedes the

subject. These finite auxiliaries and verbs are not in T as in present-day English.

The configuration of V2 construction is illustrated as follows:

- (2) [CP[C Vf [IPV]]]

(Fischer et al. 2000: 107)

The first constituent is in spec-CP, the finite verb in C in (4). This analysis has been generally accepted, where a finite verb moves to the head position of CP structure.

OE is not a rigid V2 language like New High German, because in cases where the first constituent is a non-subject, pronominal subjects precede the verb, as in (6)–(7); verb-subject order is dominant only when the subject is a full noun, as in (5).

- (3) On twam þingum hæfde God þæs mannes sawle gegodod
in two things had God the man's soul endowed
'With two things God had endowed man's soul'.

(*ÆCHom* I, 1.20.1; Fischer et al. 2000: 107)

- (4) Forðon we sceolan mid ealle mod & mægene to Gode gecrran
therefore we must with all mind and power to God turn
'Therefore we must turn to God with all our mind and power'.

(*HomU19* (BlHom 8) 26; Fischer et al. 2000: 107)

- (5) Be ðæm we magon suiðe swuytule oncnawan ðæt ...
by that we may very clearly perceive that ...
'By that, we may perceive very clearly that ...'

(*CP* 26.181.16; Fischer et al. 2000: 107)

The word order pattern seen in (4) and (5) is often referred to as a kind of V3 word order specific to OE. However, it is actually a variant of V2 word order in OE because the pronominal subjects in (4) and (5) are regarded as subject clitics (see van Kemenade [1987]). Both V2 and V3 as a variant of V2 word order

are non-Latinate elements in OE word order.

2.2 The Parametric Variations of CP Structure in Germanic Languages

The modification of V2 analysis for V3 word order in OE is a small, rather than fundamental, one because this word order can be recognised as a V2 variation. However, there are other word order variations in OE. The application of V2 word order requires the landing site of the moved finite verb, which is the head of CP (C⁰).

While V2 word order in the main clause is obligatory in modern German, it is not always obligatory in OE. Instead of assuming that V-to-C⁰ movement is optional in OE, Kiparsky (1995: 141) argues that ‘the category C itself is optional, where no principle of grammar requires its presence’. As Kiparsky (1995: 142) argues that ‘[W]here C⁰ is not required for these or other reasons, its presence or absence is fixed on a language-specific basis’, the differences in word order among Germanic languages ought to reflect the parametric variations of CP structures.

Kiparsky (1995) illustrates the three word-order variations, as follows:

- (6) a. CP[XP C⁰[c[V] s[...]]]
b. CP[C⁰[c[V] s[...]]]
c. s[...V...]

(Kiparsky 1995: (4))

Verb-second clauses illustrated in (6a) are the standard main clause type in OE and other Germanic languages, which is discussed in 3.1. Verb-first clauses illustrated in (6b), which are obligatory in yes-no questions, also occur in declarative clauses in OE, Old High German, and Old Icelandic, which is discussed in 3.2.

- (7) a. *Hæfde* se cyning his fierd on tu tonumen

(*Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, A.D. 893)

‘The king had divided his army in two’.

- b. *Uuârun* thô hirtâ in thero lantskeffi (*Tatian* 6)

‘At that time there were shepherds in the area’.

c. *ferr þá Vagn heim suðr til Danmerkr* (*Heimskringla* 160.29)

‘Then Vagn went home southwards to Denmark’.

(Kiparsky 1995: (5))

According to Kiparsky’s analysis, the verb-final main clause illustrated in (6c) displays bare S structure, which does not accompany CP. Some examples are as follows:

(8) He þa his here on tu *todælde* (*Orosius* 116.16)

‘He then divided his army in two’.

Her hæpne men ærest on Sceapige ofer winter sætun

(*Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, A.D. 855)

‘Here (in this year) heathen men first encamped in S. over the winter’.

(Kiparsky 1995: (6))

Such examples are observed almost only in OE. Kiparsky supposes that C⁰ is a syntactically obligatory element even in main clauses in Old High German and Old Icelandic. This means that CP structure was not developed to be obligatory in main clauses in OE, and V2 was abandoned in Middle English and became residual in Early Modern English.

3 Word Orders in the Old English *Orosius*

In this section, we examine verb-second, verb-first, verb-final, and other word orders in several sections of the OE translation of *Orosius* (Bately (ed.) 1980) to clarify to what extent its main clauses correspond to the original Latin version, from which the OE version was translated. The data that were used for this purpose are from the OE *Orosius* Book I and the corresponding sections of the original Latin version.

3.1 Verb-Second Word Order

Subject-verb word order in main clauses is one of the most frequent word orders in OE. Some examples are as follows:

- (9) *Ær ðæm ðe Romeburh getimbred wære þrim hund wintra 7 þusend wintra, Ninus, Asyria kyning, **ongan** manna ærest ricsian on ðysum middangearde. 7 mid ungemæstlicre gewilnunge anwaldes he wass heriende 7 feohtende fiftig wintra ...*

(Bately (ed.) 1980: 21/23–6)

‘Thirteen hundred years before the building of Rome, Ninus, king of Assyria, became first of men to reign in this world; and having great desire of power, he committed devastations, and carried on wars for fifty years ...’

(Thorpe (trans.) 1853: 263)

The corresponding part of the Latin *Orosius* is an abridged translation rather than a literal one, as follows:

- (10) Latin OH: Ante annos urbis conditae MCCC Ninus rex Assyriorum ‘primus’ ut ipsi uolunt propagandae dominationis libidine arma foras **extulit** cruentamque uitam quinquaginta annis per totam Asiam bellis **egit**;

(Latin OH_I_iv_1)

‘1,300 years before the foundation of the City, Ninus the ‘first’ (as they would have it) king of the Assyrians, took up arms out of lust to spread his power abroad and lived a bloodstained life, spreading war across all of Asia for 50 years.’

(Fear (trans.) 2010: 51)

The main verb of OE, *ongan* ‘began’, is the lexical equivalent of neither of

the main verbs in the Latin original, *extulit* ‘carried out, raised’ or *egit* ‘spent’. Using one verb to represent both of the original Latin verbs is a mastery translation, which can reconcile the standard OE word order V2 and the Latin word order V-final. The OE translation adopted the subject-verb word order to transform the original construction of the paragraph on the descriptive attitude of the OE translation, which follows the series of events more chronologically than that of the Latin original.

More obvious examples of verb-second word order are the cases in which the first constituents are not the subjects, as follows:

- (11) On ðære ylcan tide **ricsade** Baleus se cyning in Assirin, þæt set wæs Ninus.

(Bately (ed.) 1980: 24/18–9)

‘At the same time King Baleus ruled in Assyria, where Nimus had been previously’.

(Thorpe (trans.) 1853: 269)

The first constituent in (11) is a prepositional phrase, which is followed by the main verb *ricsade* ‘reigned’.

The corresponding Latin sentence to (11) is not literally translated, as follows:

- (12) quo tempore Baleus Assyrios, Argiuos Apis **regebat**.

(OH.I.8.10)

‘(He lived) at the time when Baleus ruled over the Assyrians, and when the Argives were ruled by Apis’.

(Fear (trans.) 2010: 56)

The Latin verb *regebat* corresponding to *ricsade* in (11) is omitted in the subordinate clause in (12) and interpreted as the same verb in the main clause. The

word order in the Latin original is Verb-final, which is a typical Latin word order.

The translator(s) adopted V2 word order on the basis of the standard OE word order, being irreverent of the original Latin word order.⁽¹⁾ The word order in the Latin *Orosius* is assumed not to have a great influence on that of the OE translation.

3.2 Verb-First Word Order

Verb-first word order in OE is assumed to have had contextual force, of which function ‘mark[s] a turning-point, a transition, or a change of pace’ (Mitchell 1985: 969, §3933). Ogawa (2000: 239) describes verb-first order in the *Vercelli Homilies* according to this analysis as ‘the order VS opens a new paragraph’.

Verb-first word order is also found in the OE *Orosius*, as follows:

- (13) **Wæs** se hunger on þæs cyninges dagum on Egyptum þe mon hæť
Amoses, þeah ðe hiora þeaw wære pæt hi ealle hiora cyningas hetan
Pharaon.

(Bately (ed.) 1980: 24/16–8)

‘This famine happened in the days of the king of Egypt, called Amasis;
though it was their custom to call all their kings Pharaoh’.

(Thorpe (trans.) 1853: 269)

Mitchell’s account for verb-first order applies well to (13). The corresponding part to (13) in the original Latin version has V1 word order, as the following example demonstrates:

- (14) **fuit** itaque haec fames magna sub rege Aegyptiorum Diopolita, cui
nomen erat Amosis,

(OH.I.8.10)

‘The great famine occurred in the reign of the Egyptian king of
Diopolis whose name was Amosis’.

The above example illustrates the direct influence of Latin word order on the OE translation. The main verbs in bold letters in both the OE version (13) and the Latin version (14) occupy the first position, which both introduce newly opening articles of the same event. These examples show that OE and Latin share a common usage of verb-first word order, which can be recognised as one of Latin's influences on OE.

However, the verb-first word order in OE translations does not always reflect the word order in the original Latin, as the following example shows:

- (15) *Ær ðam ðe Romeburh getimbred wære eahta hund wintra 7 fif wintrum, **gewearð** þæt Moyses lædde Israhela folc of Egyptum æfter þæm manegum wundrum þe he þær gedon hæfde.*

(Bately (ed.) 1980: 25/14–6)

‘Eight hundred and five years before the foundation of Rome, it happened that Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt, after the many miracles that he had performed there’.

(Thorpe (trans.) 1853: 271)

The main verb *gewearð* ‘happened’ in (15) lacks the expletive subject, which is obligatory in modern English, as its modern English translation indicates. While this type of verb-first word order in OE is dependent on OE grammar, there is no corresponding part of the OE *Orosius* to the original Latin, as shown in the following example:

- (16) *Anno autem ante urbem conditam DCCCV infanda Aegyptiis mala atque intolerabiles plagas incubuisse Pompeius Corneliusque **testantur**:*

(OH.I.10.1)

‘805 years before the foundation of the City, Pompeius and Cornelius

tell us that terrible ills and unbearable plagues descended upon Egypt’.

(Fear (trans.) 2010: 58)

The main verb *testantur* ‘testify’ in (16) corresponds to the main verb *gewearð* in (15), which corresponds rather to the non-finite verb *incubuisse* ‘lie in’ in the infinitive clause. These examples illustrate that all sentences with verb-first word order in OE are not influenced by Latin word order in their translations.

- (17) Ic wat geare, **cwæð** Orosius, þæt ic his sceal her fela oferhebban, 7
þa spell þe ic secge ic hi sceal gescyrtan, for ðon þe Asyrie hæfdon
lx wintra 7 an hund 7 an þusend under fiftiga cyninga rice, þæt hit na
buton gewinne næs oþ þæt Sarðanopolim ofslegen wearð, 7 se anwald
siððan on Mæðe gehwearf.

(Bately (ed.) 1980: 27/22–6)

‘I [know well], says Orosius, that those would answer me, who say that this world is now worse, in this Christianity, than it was before in heathenism, when they were enacting such sacrifices and murders, as I have just now mentioned’.

(Thorpe (trans.) 1853: 275)⁽²⁾

The verb-first word order in (17) is used for an inserted comment, which functions as the main clause of the whole sentence. This type of expression with *cwæð*, which introduces an ‘authorial comment’, appears frequently in OE literature. The semantic corresponding expression to (17) consists of a passive finite verb and a non-finite verb following it in (18), as demonstrated in the following example:

- (18) At ego nunc **cogor fateri**, me prospiciendi finis commodo de tanta
malorum saeculi circumstantia praeterire plurima, cuncta breuiare.
nequaquam enim tam densam aliquando siluam praetergredi possem,
nisi etiam crebris interdum saltibus subuolarem.

(OH.I.12.1)

‘But now I am forced to confess that the goal of bringing to its end an account of the great evils of this time compels me to pass over many more events and to shorten my account of all of them. Indeed, I would be unable to pass through such a thick forest, unless I were to fly forward from time to time by leaps and bounds’.

(Fear (trans.) 2010: 61–2)

While the expression corresponding to (18) in OE is considerably stylised as it was described above, the equivalent in the Latin original is not. This type of verb-first word order in OE should not be assumed to be directly influenced by the Latinate language, although it may be considerably stylised in its translation. Thus, it was made clear that verb-first word order in the OE version of *Orosius* was not uniformly used, and only a small selection of the examples of such can be recognised as having been influenced by the Latinate language.

3.3 Verb-Final Word Order

Kiparsky (1995) argues that verb-final word order reflects an early stage of the Germanic languages that had been developing the structure of sentence initial position or CP. Data from some of the OE literature illustrate a historical stage of Germanic languages. Koopman (1995) supplies the data which shows relatively high frequency of verb-final word order in the OE versions of *Bede* and *Orosius*.⁽³⁾

OE translations from Latin literature may correspond to the word order of the original Latin, as the following examples show:

- (19) Ær ðam ðe Romeburh ge|timbred wære þusend wintra 7 hundsýfantig,
Thelescises 7 Cíarsathi þa leode betuh him gewin up **hofon**, 7 þæt
drugon oþ hi mid ealle ofslegene wæron butan swiðe feawum.

(Bately (ed.) 1980: 23/12–5)

‘In the year a thousand and seventy before the building of Rome, the Telchises and Carsathii began a war between them, and carried it on

till they were all slain except a very few ...'

(Thorpe (trans.) 1853: 267)

- (20) Ante annos urbis conditae MLXX Telchises et Caryatii peruicax
proelium aduersus Foroneum, regem Argiuorum, et Parrhasios
ancipiti spe sine fructu uictoriae **gesserunt**.

(OH.1.7.1)

'1,070 years before the foundation of the City, the Thelcises and
Carsatii waged a war of aggression with doubtful hope of success and
with no fruit of victory against Phoroneus, the king of the Argives, and
the Parrhasians'.

(Fear (trans.) 2010: 54)

Examples such as sentence (19) offer support for the theory that the development of OE prose was influenced by Latin.

However, the examples of verb-final word order in the OE translations do not always correspond to the original Latin word order, as the following examples demonstrate:

- (21) Hwæðre God þa miclan Pharones mence **gelytlode** 7 hyra ofer-mætan
ofermetto **genyðerode**; 7 beforan Moyse 7 hys folce he ðone Readan
Sæ on twelf wegæ adrigde, þæt hi drigan fotan þæne sæ oferferdon.

(Bately (ed.) 1980: 26/16–8)

'God, however, lessened the great multitude of Pharaoh, and humbled
their excessive pride before Moses and his people, and dried up the
Red Sea into twelve ways, so that they crossed that sea with dry feet'.

(Thorpe (trans.) 1853: 273)

- (22) sed protector depressorum et ultor contumacium Deus **diuisit** subito
Rubrum mare ac dilatatis utrimque marginibus rigentium undarum
in montis faciem latera erecta suspendit, ut inoffensi spe limitis

prouocati, pii uiam desperatae salutis, impii foueam insperatae mortis
intrarent.

(OH.1.10.15)

‘But God, the Protector of the oppressed and the Avenger upon the stiff-necked, suddenly divided the Red Sea. He paralysed its waves, pushing them back on either side, and held its flanks upright like the faces of a mountain, so that, attracted by seeing an unhindered passage, the good should enter onto a road of salvation that they had not seen, but the wicked into a trench of death that they had not foreseen’.

(Fear (trans.) 2010: 60)

The OE translation of this text is an absolute abridged one. Thus, the two main verbs in the OE version, *gelytlode* ‘diminished’ and *genyðerode* ‘brought low’ do not lexically correspond to the two tensed verbs in the Latin original, *diuisit* ‘divided’ and *intrarent* ‘should enter’, the former of which proceeds the object, and the latter of which is in the subordinate clause although it occupies the sentence-final position.

There seems to be no consistency in the use of verb-final word order in the OE *Orosius* translations from the original Latin version in examples (19)–(20) and (21)–(22) above. We cannot safely assume that the verb-final word order in OE prose was influenced by Latin in the translations. Kiparsky’s theory about verb-final word order in OE thus has the advantage over the Latin influence theory.

3.4 Non-Verb-Second Word Orders

Verb-second, verb-first, and verb-final word orders, which have already been examined in the previous sections of Chapter 3, are neutral in the sense that they are not characteristic of any specific language. Though verb-second word order is the most normative in OE word orders, this norm is not strictly applied to OE grammar. While examples of verb-second word order are frequently observed in the OE version of *Orosius*, there are examples that do not belong to verb-second

in middle verb word orders, for which *non-verb-second word order* is tentatively used in this section, as the following examples show:

- (23) Seo ylce cwen Sameramis, syððan þat rice wæs on hyre gewælde,
nales þæt an þæt hio ðyrste[n]de **wæs** on symbel mannes blodes,
(Bately (ed.) 1980: 22/19–21)

‘The same Queen Semiramis, after the empire was in her power, was
not only constantly thirsting for human blood’,
(Thorpe (trans.) 1853: 265)

- (24) haec, libidine ardens, sanguinem sitiens, inter incessabilia et stupra et
homicidia,
(OH.1.4.7)

‘This woman, ablaze with lust and thirsting for blood, lived amid
unending fornication and murder’.
(Fear (trans.) 2010: 51–2)

Part of a long sentence in the original Latin version (24) was changed into a sentence in the OE version (23) in the translation. In the OE translation (23), the main verb *wæs* ‘was’ is used with the present participle *ðyrstende* ‘thirsting’, which precedes it. The corresponding part of the original Latin *Orosius* is not a simple sentence, but a phrase that consists of the two-verb present participle, *ardens* ‘being on fire’ and *sitiens* ‘being thirsty’.

The non-verb-second word order in the OE version can be regarded as one of the standard variations in OE, being free from the original Latin construction. It is thus clear that the word orders used in OE were not influenced by the original Latin when the sentence construction was changed in the translations. The style of the translation of *Orosius* from Latin into OE was not literal, because several word order variations were adopted in the translations.

4 Conclusion

The results of the investigation of the old English *Orosius* Book 1 are illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1 Word Orders in Main Clauses in the Old English translation of *Orosius*

	V1			V2					Non_V2					V-final		
	0 expletive	0 pronoun	others	SV	Wh V	And...	Ac...	Others	SV	0 pronoun	And...	Ac...	Others		And...	Ac...
I.2		1		2					2			1		1		1
I.3				2				2								
I.4						1								1	1	1
I.5																
I.6																
I.7																
I.8			2	3	3	1		3	3				2	1	2	
I.9	1		1					1								
I.10		1	1	3				7	7		1		2	3		
I.11	1	1	1		1			1					1	2	1	
I.12			1	4	1	1	1	4	4		1	2		2	1	1
I.13	1							1								
I.14		1		2				2					1		1	
SUM	3	4	6	16	5	3	1	21	16		2	3	6	10	6	3

Book I 1 was excluded from the investigation displayed in Table 1 because it includes some parts that were originally written in OE, and Book I 1 consists of geographical articles, which were modified from the original Latin version.

Each type of word order classified in Table 1 was not examined in detail because this study focused on the question of the influence of Latin word order in an OE translation. While verb-first and verb-final word orders generally are not typical of Old English literature, they are frequently found in the OE translation of *Orosius*. Verb-final word order in OE is generally found in subordinate clauses rather than main clauses.

As the comparisons between the OE and the original Latin version in section 3 were examined, the direct influence on word orders in OE from

Latin cannot be recognised. If the language of early OE literature such as *Orosius* reflects the Wessex dialect to a considerable degree, we can make the assumption that the language that the Saxons used in Wessex had already diverged from that which the Angles used.

The Saxons had started to settle on the Saxon shore before the Anglo-Saxon invasion in 499 A.C. recorded by Bede, according to the historical theory on which Oppenheimer (2006) depends.⁽⁴⁾ The Wessex dialect can be assumed to have been formed through linguistic contacts with the Britons and the Romans, who inhabited the area when the Saxons started to settle in the region. It is assumed that this process influenced the characteristics of the language in early Old English literature. This study provides the linguistic evidence of the syntactic aspect of OE for a historical discussion on the subject.

Notes

- (1) Fischer et al. (2009: 128–9) refer to the investigation by Koopman (1998) as follows:
For topic-initial constructions with nominal subjects, the facts are more variable: while inversion of the nominal subject is the norm in the works of *Ælfric* (the most substantial part of Koopman’s corpus, with percentages ranging from ninety-one to ninety-four per cent), the figures are equivocal for the two early texts, *Cura Pastoralis* and *Orosius*. There may be several reasons for this, not the least of which may be that both are early texts translated from Latin, which was not a verb-second language. Another, more tentative, suggestion that must await further research is that verb-second in topic-initials may be an innovation in progress in early Old English, the time when both texts were written.
- (2) The translation in modern English for ‘wat geare’ is dropped in Thorpe’s translation for this part, which is used in the modern English translation for (17).
- (3) Koopman (1995, table 4) shows the data as follows:

Percentage of verb-final main clauses in some texts

Or	5.4–6.1
ÆCHom ii	2.2–2.8
Bede	4.1–4.4
CP	1.0–1.2
Bo	0.6–0.7
ÆCHom i	2.6–3.0

- (4) There are two theories about the Saxon shore. According to the first theory, the Saxon shore was named after the Saxons because the region had been invaded by them. On the other hand, the second theory proposes that the Saxon shore was named after them because they had settled in the region.

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